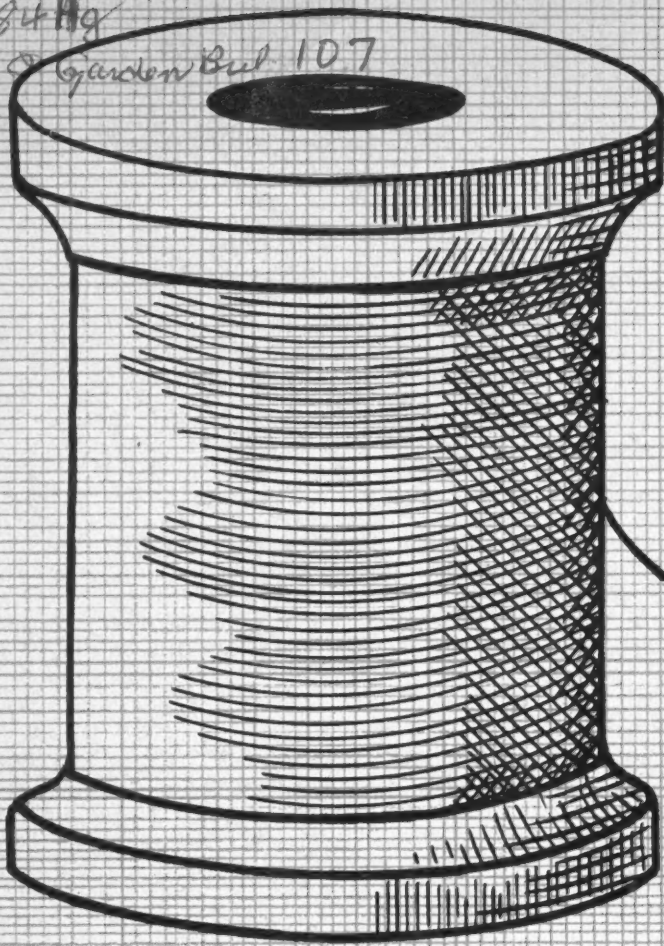


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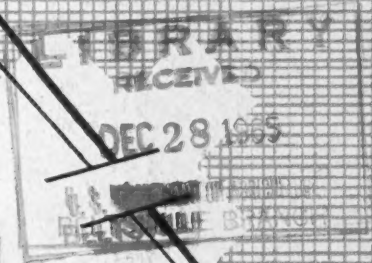
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Clothing Repairs



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Prepared by

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- - - CLOTHING REPAIRS - - -

You may not enjoy repairing clothes, but it does pay off in better appearance and savings for the whole family. Now as always, the stitch-in-time means fewer clothing replacements and more money for other needs.

Using up-to-date methods can help cut the size of your mending pile and extend the life of your family's wardrobe. If family members learn respect for their wearables and something about the high cost of rips and tears, that helps, too!

Although sewing machines and mending aids save time

and energy, handwork is an important part of repairing clothes.

In this publication you'll find information on—

- Mending equipment and aids.
- Basic repair stitches and their uses.
- Reinforcement of garments before they are worn.
- Patches and darns.
- Mends for damage commonly found in family clothing.

EQUIPMENT AND AIDS

You are more apt to mend promptly and efficiently if you work in a convenient place with equipment and supplies assembled for action. Strong, diffused light is essential for any kind of sewing.

A basket, box, or large drawer can hold your mending and supplies. In it you can keep scraps of fabric left from making clothes or altering readymades, and usable parts of discarded garments—material for patches, buttons, zippers, and other fastenings.

Look over the list of mending equipment and aids given below. Select those items that will help you with your kind of mending. You may want to add others as you find a need for them or learn to use them.

Here is the list:

Sewing machine. Reverse and zigzag stitchings are helpful, but any workable machine can be used.

Iron, pressboard, press cloths, and sponge for dampening as you press. Pressing is essential for a good start and a good finish on a mend.

Scissors. See that points are sharp for precise clipping and trimming.

Pinking shears. Use to finish the edges of fabrics that do not fray badly.

Magnifying glass. Helps with close work.

Ruler. A transparent ruler, 6 inches long, is convenient to use.

Flexible tape measure. It is economical to buy one of good quality.

Pins. Buy dressmaker type. Keep in a pin cushion or suitable container.

Thimble. Use one that fits the big finger comfortably and resists needle punctures.

Needles. Get crewel type (with long eyes) in sizes for fine and heavy work. A blunt or round-end needle (tapestry) is best for mending sweaters.

Needle threader. Saves time and helps prevent eye-strain.

Bodkin. Handy for replacing elastics or tapes in casings.

Embroidery hoops. These hold materials taut for hand or machine mending. Embroidery supply shops stock many shapes and sizes of hoops.

Ripping aids. These can save time only if used carefully. Otherwise, rippers can make more mending necessary.

Small stiletto or thread pick.

Crochet hook. This is useful in pulling snagged yarns to the inside of a garment, for making new belt loops, installing reweave patches, and replacing French tacks that hold lining and coat hems together.

Hooks and eyes. Keep replacements on hand.

Snap fasteners. The sew-on kind are used for dress clothes; the pound-in kind for utility wear.

Buttons. Save the extras to avoid buying a whole set in case one is lost or broken.

Threads. Several kinds of thread belong in your mending basket—

Cotton—for general use in colors that prevail in your family's clothing.

Silk—helpful in mending best dresses, coats, and suits.

Linen—for sewing buttons on coats that get hard wear.

Elastic—useful in restoring the stretch in wristlets and neckbands.

Beeswax. Rub on thread to protect against abrasive wear when you sew by hand.

Buttonhole twist. Rework buttonholes on coats and suits with this sturdy thread.

Darning cottons and wool yarns. Keep a supply on hand that matches the family's socks and stockings.

Darning egg. Use one if it makes your darning easier. Many women prefer to darn a sock when it is pulled over the left hand.

Tapes. You need several kinds—twill, bias, and straight—for reinforcement and finishing.

Net fabric. This is helpful in repairing lace and as a base for some darns.

Press-on interfacing as backing for machine darns; **iron-on patches** for emergency repairs on play and work clothes or socks.

Plastic mending tape. Sometimes this can be used to prolong the life of plastic raincoats or garment bags.

Pencils. A white chalk pencil and lead pencil are helpful in making guidelines as you repair clothes.

Small pencil sharpener and sandpaper pad. Use them to keep fine points on pencils.

Buy Carefully, Mend Less

One way to help keep repair of clothing at a minimum is to check garments carefully before you buy them. When you shop, follow these suggestions:

- Pick types of garments best suited to your family's needs and to the kind of care these clothes will get.

- Check sizes and fit. Getting just the right fit avoids many strains that cause damaging rips and tears later.

- Study style features and trimmings to see if they will hold up in use. Some, although satisfactory in dress clothes, are not practical in garments for work or play.

- Examine the workmanship of a garment, outside and inside, to make sure it is appropriate and serviceable for the material, style, and cut of garment, as well as for the use and care it will get. Look for flaws.

- Take time to pick the best garment, whether clothes are piled in a stack or hanging from a rack. Don't hurry. All clothes of a kind, or even a size, are not equally good buys. While one choice seems as good as another, clothes are made by individuals, some of whom are more skillful and exacting than others.

BASIC REPAIR STITCHES AND THEIR USES

Even if you do some family mending on the sewing machine, you still need to know the basic hand repair stitches shown here. Handwork is often necessary to prepare the damaged area for the machine work.

With certain of these stitches, you can pull damaged areas into shape before darning or applying a patch, fix places not easily reached by machine, and disguise the seam lines of insets or patches. When a mend needs to be practically invisible, soft, and flexible, nothing takes the place of handwork.

All the stitches shown here are helpful in some kind of mending. There are no hard-and-fast rules for using them. Simply choose and adapt them to the problem at hand; keep in mind that the main idea is to make the mend look as much like the original material as possible. In so doing you greatly extend the usefulness of the damaged garment.

Hemming stitches

The running stitch (fig. 1) is especially good if you need spaced stitches. A whipping or slanted stitch (fig. 2) works best if you want close stitches. Notice that the thread in the running stitch is under the hem fold, but is on top in the whipping stitch. For protection against abrasive wear on skirts and the like, a slip stitch (fig. 3) is

best. Between stitches, the thread runs inside the fold of the hem. Many times it is desirable to machine stitch this fold before hemming (fig. 4).

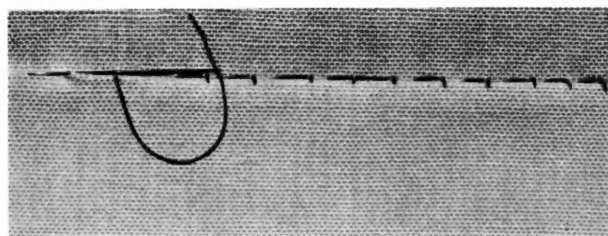


Figure 1

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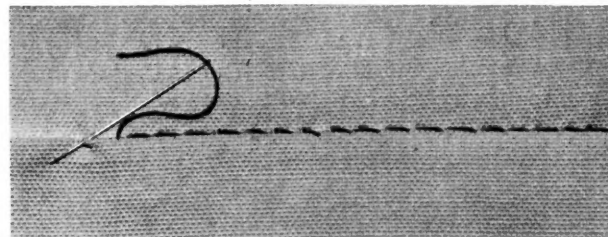


Figure 2

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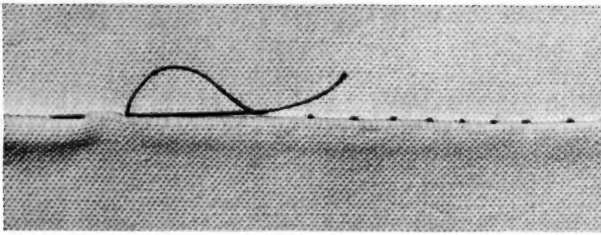


Figure 3

PN1224

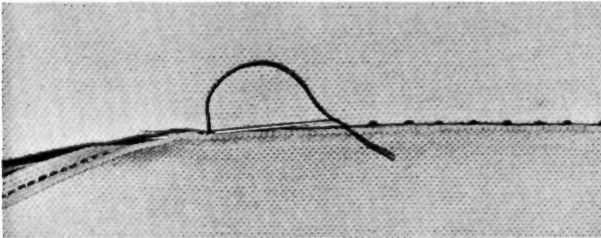


Figure 4

PN1225

Overcasting stitch

Overcasting (fig. 5) makes a good seam finish to protect cut edges against ordinary, but not excessive, fraying.

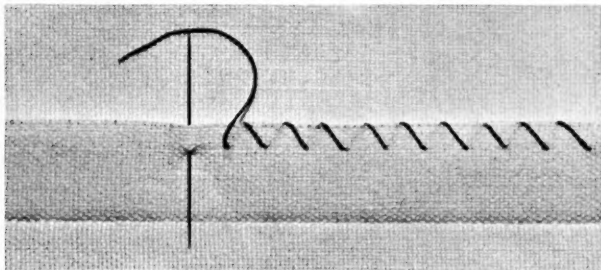


Figure 5

PN1226

Back stitch

For places hard to reach by machine—underarm seams, gussets, and plackets—the back stitch (fig. 6) gives the appearance of machine stitching. The underneath stitch is twice the length of the top stitch. Top stitching looks like machine stitching because each top stitch meets the next stitch.

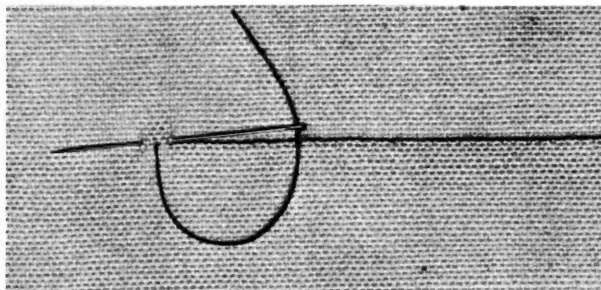


Figure 6

PN1227

Seed stitch

This variation of the back stitch, in which only tiny stitches show on the right side (fig. 7), is strong, but practically invisible. It can be used to repair zippers put in by hand, and in other places where appearance matters. A long underneath stitch permits a space between small top stitches.

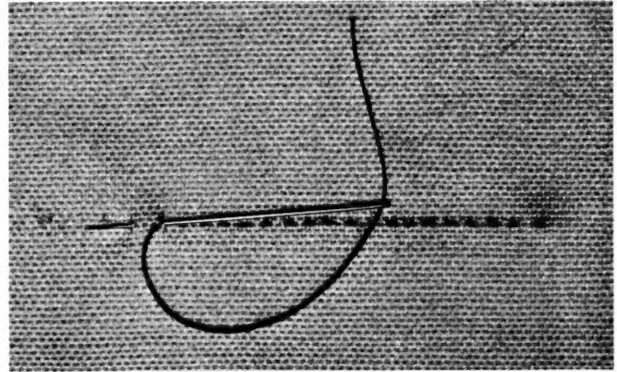


Figure 7

PN1228

Padding stitch

The padding stitch (fig. 8) is helpful for tacking and holding two layers of fabric in place before machine darning. It also reinforces a darn and protects against inside wear.

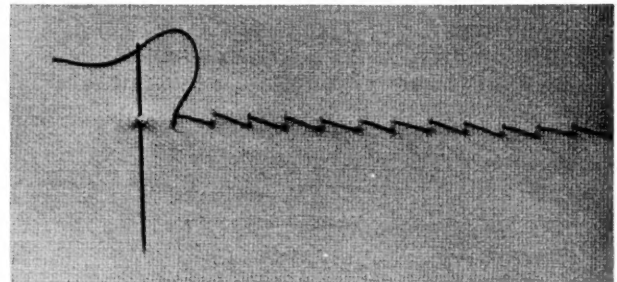


Figure 8

PN1229

Blanket stitch

The size of the blanket stitch depends on its use. Make it large for edge finishing as in figure 9, very tiny for strengthening weak corners.

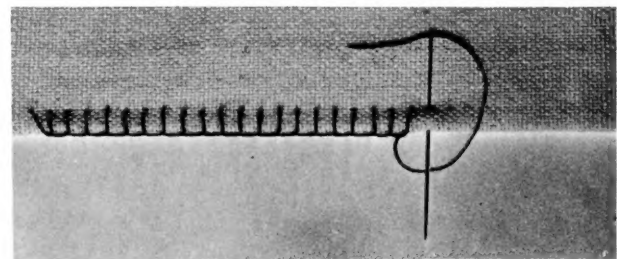


Figure 9

PN1230

Rantering stitch

This technique is used in disguising unwanted seam lines—and is especially helpful in heavy, thick fabrics where the stitches can be buried. To do the rantering stitch (fig. 10), pinch the seam line between thumb and forefinger and stitch back and forth over it in V direction. Pickup only one yarn on each side of seam line. Pull thread up close.

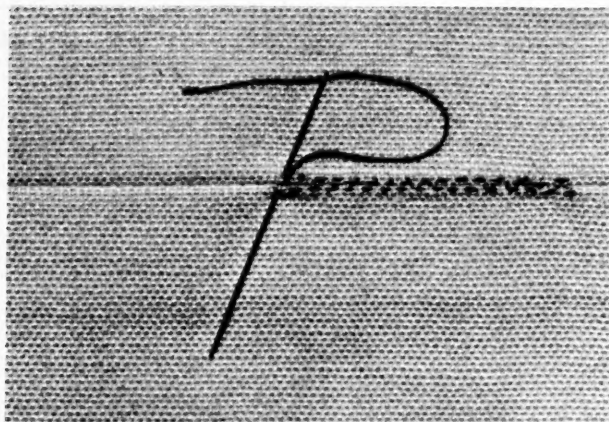
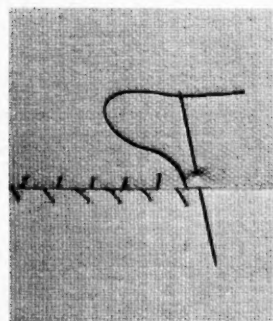


Figure 10

PN1231

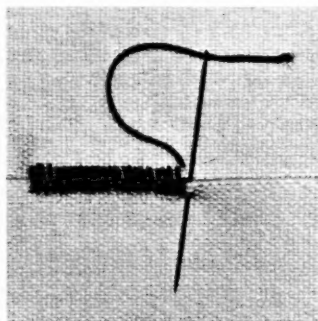
Lacing stitch

This one can be used spaced (fig. 11, A) or very close (fig. 11, B) for pulling two cut edges together temporarily or permanently. Spaced stitches are often helpful in restoring the shape of a damaged area before darning or applying a reinforcing patch.



A

PN1232



B

PN1233

Figure 11

Catch stitch

Use it on the underside of a garment to hold the cut edges of one fabric against another. The depth and spacing of the stitch depends on the material and kind of repair. Figure 12 shows how the stitch is made. Labels in coats and suits are often held in place with catch stitch.

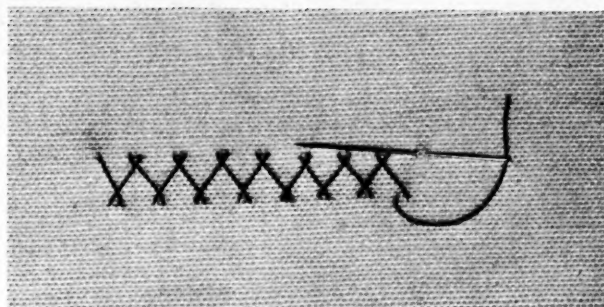


Figure 12

PN1234

Overhand stitch

If you want to join two folded edges, the overhand stitch (fig. 13) may be used. Take stitches in the very edge of the folds as you hold the two edges together.

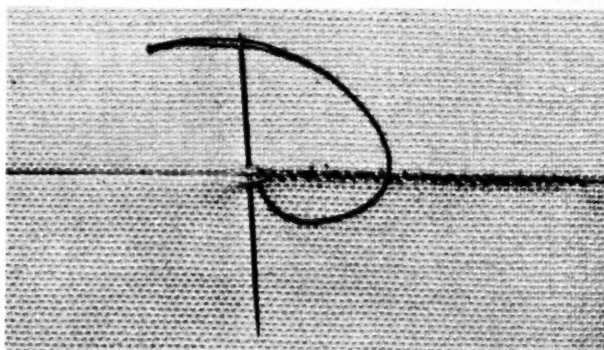


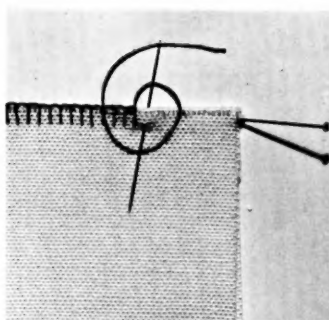
Figure 13

PN1235

Buttonhole stitch

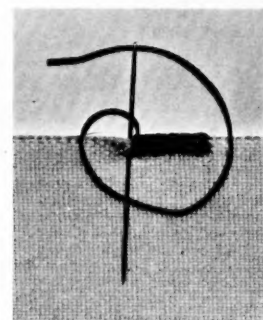
Often the edge finish of a worn handworked buttonhole can be rewoven as shown in figure 14, A. The buttonhole stitch can also be used to improve the appearance and prolong the wear of machine buttonholes (fig. 14, B).

This is a good stitch for sewing on snaps and hooks and eyes because it gives long wear and an attractive finish.



A

PN1236



B

PN1237

Figure 14

REINFORCE BEFORE WEARING

Before you or a member of your family wears a new garment, check it over. Strengthen any weak spots and correct any manufacturing errors that might cause trouble later. Often there are faults that catch your attention at once; other weaknesses may not be so obvious.

A few well-placed stitches and repairs at this time will help you get the best possible service from your purchases.

It will be worthwhile to check the points listed here.

Dangling threads

Fasten off thread wherever stitching ends. Pull these threads to the inside and tie securely. Or if threads are long enough, run them through a needle and fasten with a few stitches—or pull the threads inside a hem or fold.

Stitching

Rip out and restitch any broken, knotty, drawn, or crooked stitching. If this repair is inside a garment, let replacement stitches overlap at each end of the space you have ripped out. If repair is on the outside, pick out enough stitches so you can pull thread ends to the inside and tie them. Replacement stitches on the outside should just meet, not overlap.

If the spot is difficult to stitch by machine, back stitch by hand (p. 3) to replace the machine stitching.

Seams

Seams that are too narrow can sometimes be stitched a little deeper to make them hold. If the material is fraying—but not badly—simple overcasting of the raw edges will make a seam secure. If the material frays readily, it's better to run a row of machine stitching near the cut edges—then overcast (p. 3) or finish with zigzag machine stitching.

A good way to guard against broken stitching when seams are curved or bias is to stitch them again, using a short stitch, about one-sixteenth inch beyond the seam line.

Hems

In readymade dresses, hems are often loosely put in with a stitch that ravels. This kind of hemming is a convenience if the dress length must be changed, but in use it is hazardous.

Stitching that ravels and pulls out can easily result in a sagging hem that tends to catch on shoe heels. Better pull out such stitching and rehem with secure stitches between hem and dress (p. 2). Use silk thread for extra strength.

Bindings

To save a big mending job later, make sure that all bound edges are securely stitched. If binding is sewed too close to the edge, rip the binding open, ease the binding in a little deeper, then restitch.

Stretchy edges

If the outer edges of necklines, collars, plackets, armholes, and pockets are cut on a curve or a slight bias—rather than on the straight of the goods—they sometimes stretch, then tear.

To prevent such stretching and tearing, stay the outer edges on the underside with straight (twill) or bias tape. Or rip open the facing, and sew tape next to the edge, then restitch facing.

Vents, V- and U-necklines

Narrow twill tape laid next to the seam lines or folds, crossed at the corners, and firmly stitched will strengthen these openings without adding bulk.

Belt loops

In readymade clothes the ends of belt loops are simply pulled to the inside and knotted. These knots frequently come untied and pull out. To fix them, draw the loose end to the inside of the dress with the help of a crochet hook. There the loops should, if possible, be securely attached to a side seam with a few strong stitches.

Pocket corners

Before strain on pockets tears a garment, reinforce the pockets at the corners. For a pocket on a blouse, a sloping bar of stitching, as shown in figure 15, may be enough.

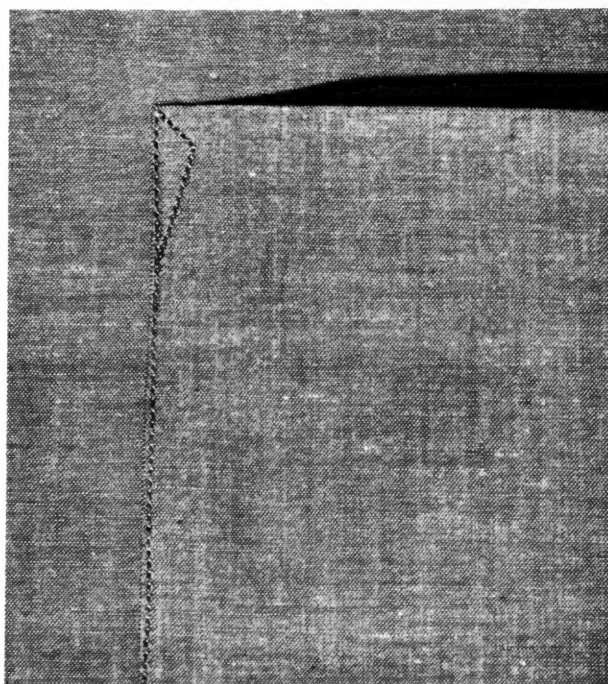


Figure 15

PN1238

Skirt pockets need more protection. On a gored skirt, lay a piece of tape on the underside in line with the pocket top and stitch it in at the corners (inner stitching), and, if possible, extend the tape to nearby seams as shown in figure 16.

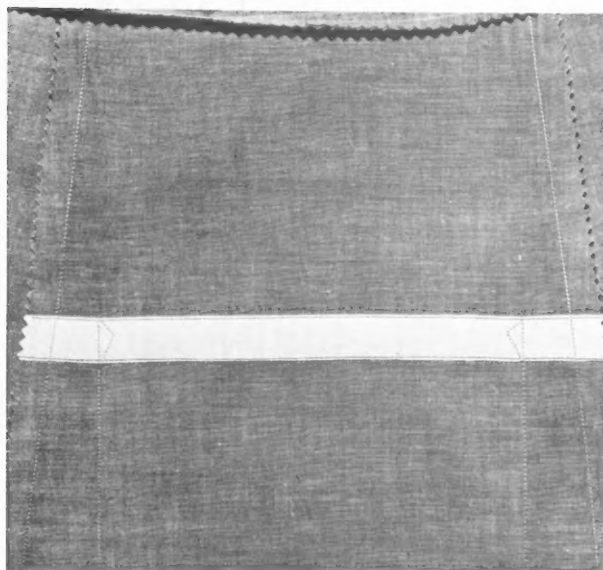


Figure 16

PN1239

In a flared or circular skirt, reinforce pocket corners with a tape supported at the waistline (fig. 17).

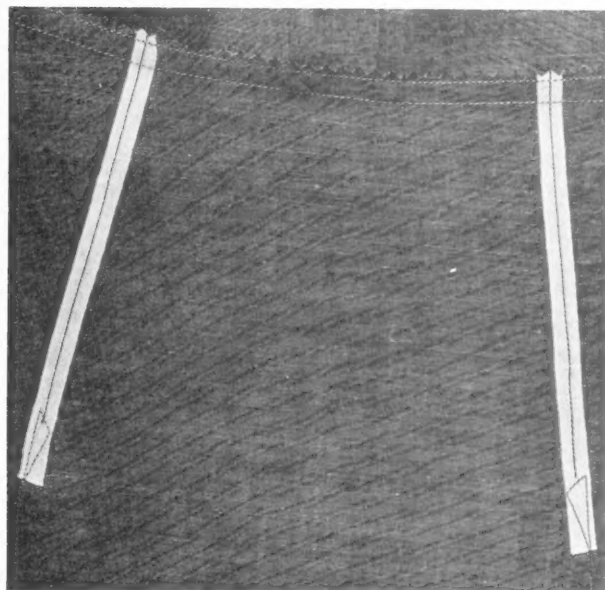


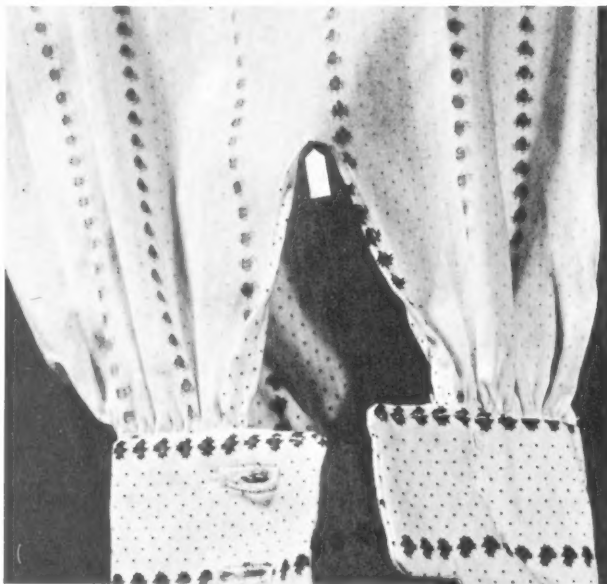
Figure 17

PN1240

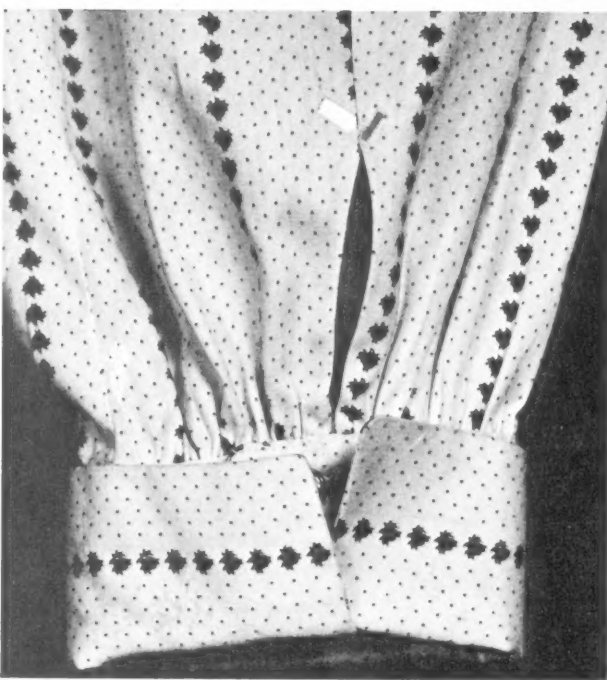
Plackets

Plackets of all kinds get considerable strain in wear and ironing. Extra stitches and tape across the ends on the underside may prevent serious damage.

For a placket that is merely hemmed and tapers to nothing at the end, reinforce with a small pleat and bar tack as shown in figure 18, *A* (before) and figure 18, *B* (after).



PN1242



PN1243

Figure 18

A thread tack at the turn of a continuous placket eases strain that in time damages a garment (fig. 19). The tack does not show when the sleeve is buttoned.



Figure 19

PN1241

Kick pleats

In a slim skirt, the stitching tends to break at the top of the kick pleat. To prevent this, take these simple measures.

When pleat hangs full length of the skirt, turn the skirt to the inside and stitch a curved line down from the top of the pleat opening to the folded pleat edge (fig. 20). This shifts strain from the point where the skirt ordinarily rips.

If pleat is short and does not hang from the waistband, tape the end of the seam line inside the skirt. Then, on the outside, stitch the top of pleat in place with a bar of stitching, as in figure 21. Note that the topline of stitching is slightly longer than the lower one. Sloping the ends of the stitching in this way eases strain.

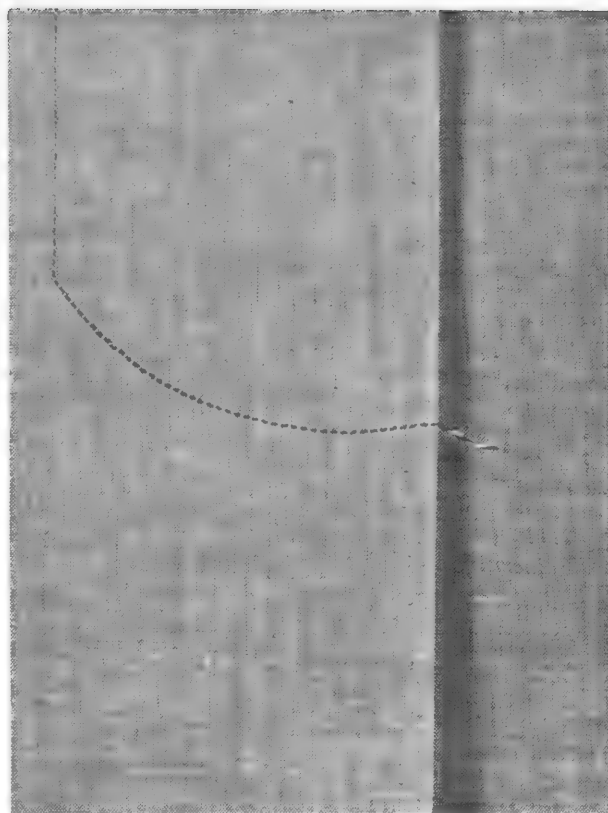


Figure 20

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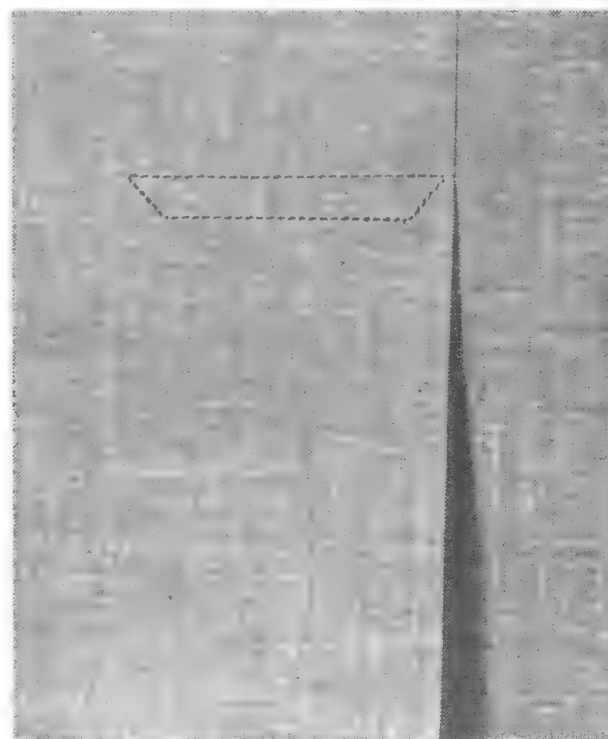


Figure 21

PN1245

Underarm gussets

The underarm gussets in a bodice front and back often pull out at the points. To avoid this, edge stitch around the gussets on the outside of garment, with seams pressed toward the bodice. Make a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch V over each point as shown in figure 22.

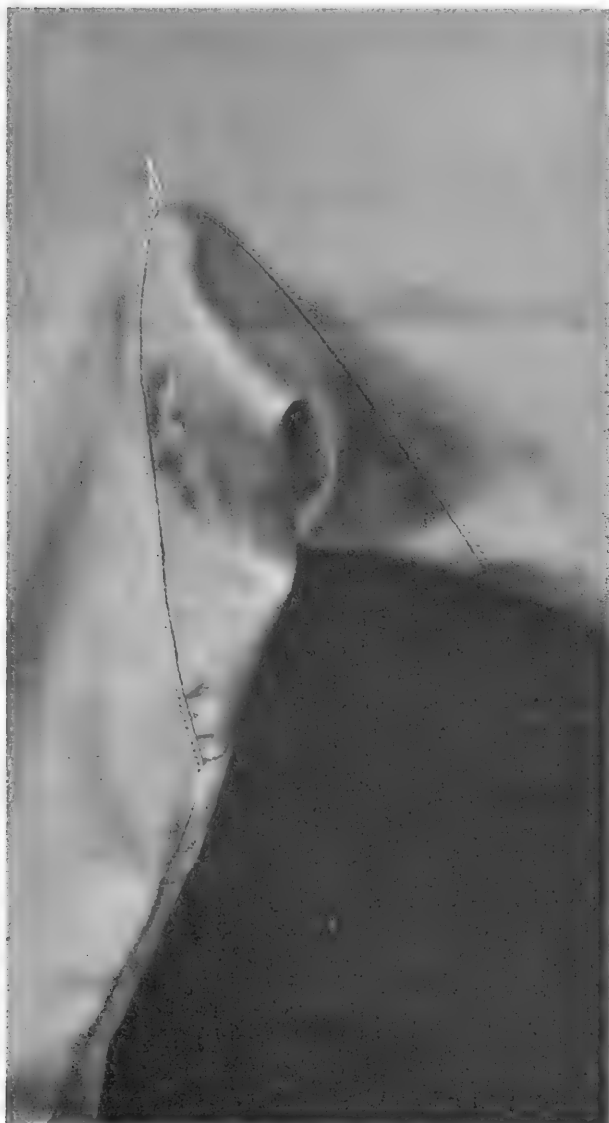


Figure 22

PN1246

rows of stitching very close to the seam line. All stitching is done on the outside of the garment.

If you are making this repair on a good dress or blouse, stitch the tape on by hand with invisible seed stitches (p. 3) over the center of the underarm seam. This may be enough protection unless the wearer is particularly hard on clothes. If you want an extra safeguard against underarm tears, you can add a line of seed stitching on either side of the underarm seam.



Figure 23

PN1247

Kimono sleeves

To prevent this type of sleeve from tearing under the arm, turn to inside, press open the underarm seam, and baste firm, narrow tape about three-sixteenth inch wide over the center of the seam (fig. 23).

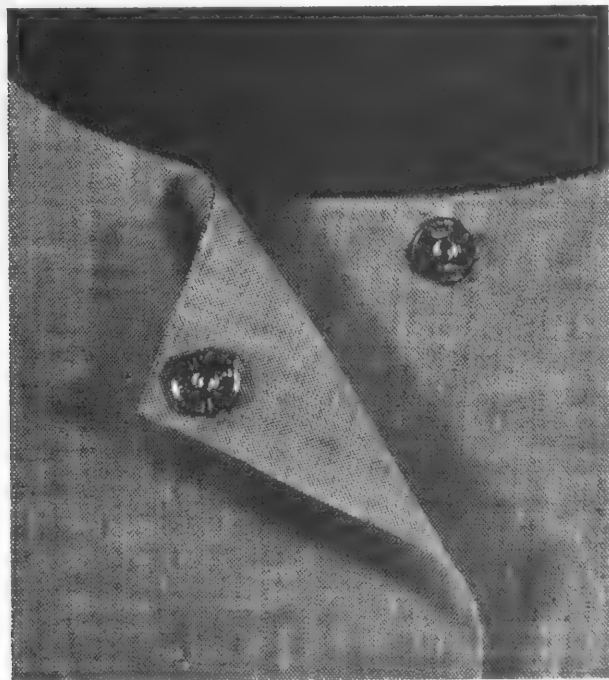
In a utility garment, stitch by machine on the seam line, and at each side of the seam line. Keep the last two

Buttonholes and fastenings

Rework raveled or weak buttonholes with buttonhole (p. 4) or blanket stitch (p. 3). If the buttonhole is completely raveled, machine stitch close to the cut edges of the hole. Then work the buttonhole by hand. If neglected, weak buttonholes may end up as serious tears.

Check thread loops used instead of metal eyes at neckline and elsewhere. These are frequently pulled out. Rework a new loop using a single crochet stitch or the blanket stitch (p. 3).

Resew snaps (fig. 24, *A*) and hooks and eyes (fig. 24, *B*) neatly and securely (the buttonhole stitch is recommended). Use strong, but not heavy thread.



PN1248

A



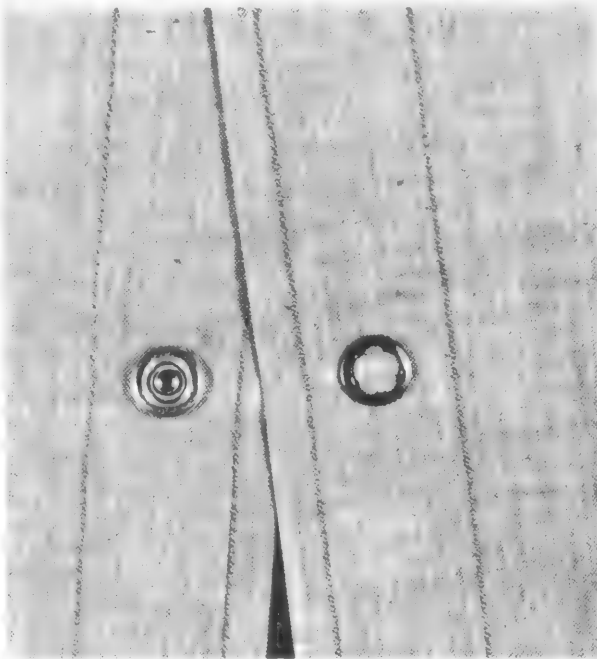
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B

Figure 24

To reinforce snap fasteners (the pound-in type) run a row of machine stitching at each side of the metal parts (fig. 25).

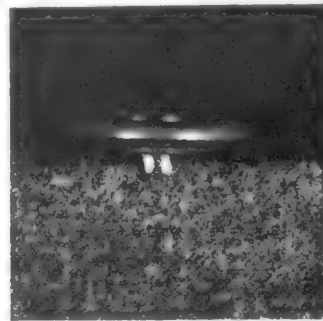
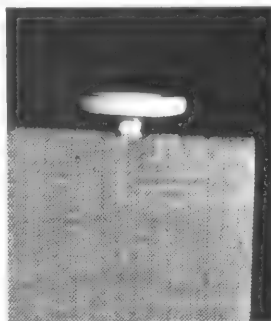
Resew loose buttons, and any buttons put on with a stitch that ravels, with strong thread. A post or shank of thread lets the buttonhole set under the button without strain. The extra thread needed to make the post is provided by laying two pins (criss-crossed), a darning needle,



PN1250

Figure 25

a matchstick, or a round toothpick across the top of the button before sewing it on. After sewing on the button, remove the object and lift the button. Underneath the button, wind the thread closely to form the post, and then fasten off securely. If you are sewing a button on a coat, weave around and in between the threads. This makes a sturdy post with little bulk. Illustrated are two buttons with posts—figure 26, *A* on a dress, and figure 26, *B* on a coat.



A

PN1251

B

PN1252

Figure 26

If buttons and buttonholes receive severe strain as they do at the lower edge of a coat or a shirtwaist dress, cotton twill tape can be used as a reinforcement. First remove the bottom three or four buttons. On the underside, stitch a strip of $\frac{1}{2}$ - or $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch twill tape down the center of the button line as pictured in figure 27, then re sew the buttons.

Pointers on Patching

- When a damaged garment is a bit shrunken and faded, patch it, whenever possible, with similarly shrunken and faded material. This helps hide the mend.
- If new fabric must be used to patch a washed and shrunken garment, shrink the patch piece. Otherwise, the finished patch may not lie flat after laundering.
- On a readymade garment, patch material can usually be taken from a facing, hem, pocket, or sash.
- If fabric has a design, slide patch material beneath the hole until the pattern matches. In a fabric like corduroy that has an up-and-down pile, match the direction of the pile. Careful matching helps disguise a patch.
- Cut a patch with the grain of the goods, making sure that lengthwise and crosswise yarns match those in the material you are repairing.

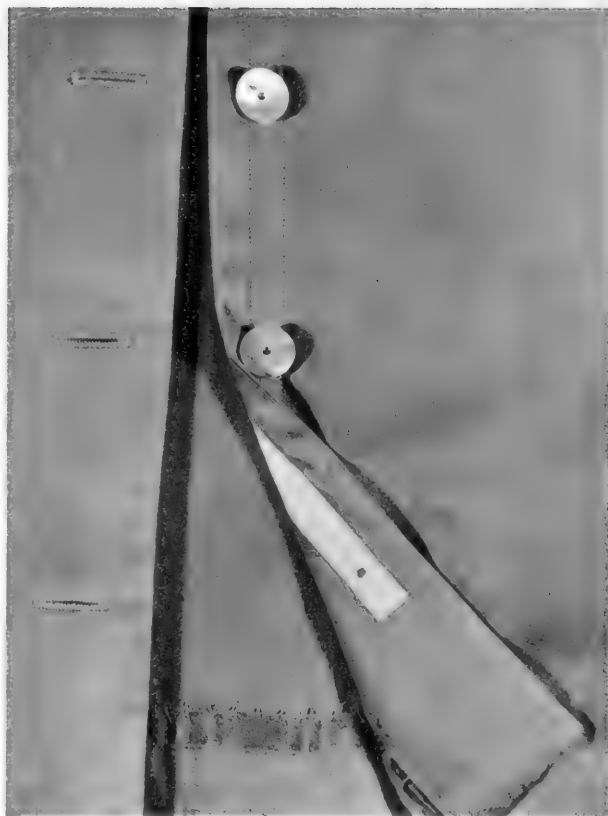


Figure 27

N1253

PATCHES AND PATCHING

Hemmed Patch

This sturdy patch, made by hand, is appropriately used on most washable fabrics, including cotton dresses, blouses, and some work clothes.

To make a hemmed patch, follow these steps:

- Mark smallest possible square or rectangle that will remove damaged area.
- Cut along lengthwise and crosswise yarns.
- Clip each corner of the hole diagonally about one-fourth inch deep (fig. 28, A).
- Turn under slightly beyond ends of these clips. Crease sharply or press. Take care not to stretch the material if you crease instead of press.
- Slide patch under hole until pattern matches. Pin in place, then cut patch about one inch larger than the hole on all four sides.
- Baste patch in place. On outside, hem with fine running hem stitches (p. 2 and fig. 28, A). Stitch closely at the corners. Let stitches catch in very edge of the opening.

- Turn edges of patch under about one-fourth inch on the inside of garments made of lightweight and washable materials. Snip out bulk. Baste and hem invisibly (p. 2) to garment (fig. 28, B). In thick materials, catch stitch (p. 4) edges of patch to garment or pink edges of patch, and seed stitch (p. 3) in place. Choose the stitch that best suits your material, but make stitching as inconspicuous as possible on the right side.

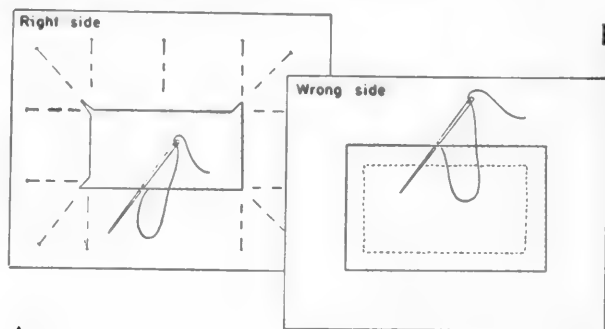


Figure 28

Inset Patch

If you want a durable patch that is almost invisible, the inset patch is a good choice. It is suitable, however, only on firmly woven materials where the patch can be matched to design. Inset may be put in by hand or machine stitching.

Here are specific directions for making an inset patch:

- Cut out damaged place on grain of goods to form rectangle or square as required.

- Clip corners diagonally—about one-fourth inch deep. Turn edges under just a little beyond the ends of clips and with grain of goods. Press.

- Match patch piece to hole and pin or baste to hold patch in place.

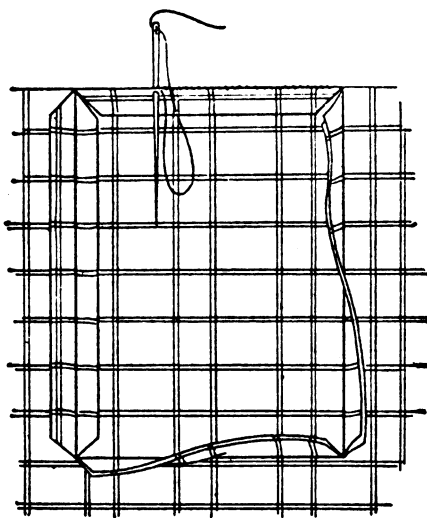
- With white silk thread, slip stitch (p. 2) folded edges of the hole to patch piece, catching very edge of

folds with stitches about one-half inch apart. Then slip stitch at each corner.

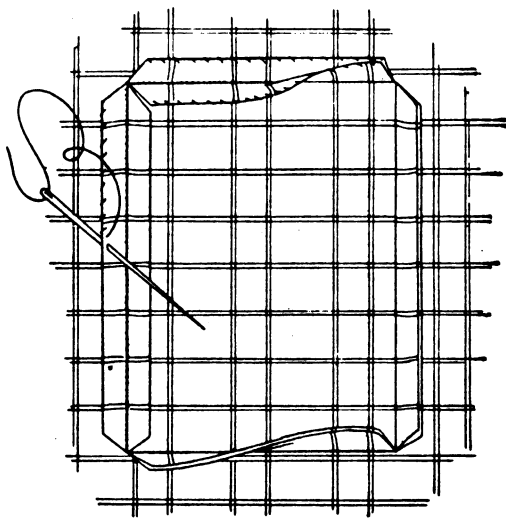
- Turn garment inside out. Stitch patch in by hand with overhand stitches (fig. 29, A) or stitch by machine, following the fold lines and the white thread of slip stitches. (For overhand stitch, see p. 4.) Begin machine stitching midway on one side, stop at each corner; with needle down in fabric raise presser foot, turn, and continue around the patch. Then remove white thread.

In clothes that receive light wear, the seams of this patch may be pressed open to be less noticeable. Overcast edges to prevent fraying (fig. 29, B). (For overcast stitch, see p. 3.) In utility clothes in which service is important, press seam edges toward the garment, then top stitch on right side. This holds seam edges flat inside the garment.

In thick fabrics—corduroy or heavy suiting—cut the patch piece just to fit the hole. Back it with a piece of lightweight press-on interfacing fabric that is about one-half inch longer on all sides of the opening; then machine stitch back and forth over the cut edges and, in the case of corduroy, between the ribs.



A



B

Figure 29

Straddle Patch

You'll find the straddle patch an excellent patch for repairing damage at the base of vents, continuous plackets, and slashed, V, or square necklines. Watch such places and apply this patch as soon as signs of strain appear.

Here is the way to make a straddle patch:

- Dart any tear that may have occurred and finish edges securely.

- Cut a square patch, not necessarily of the same material as the garment unless some of the outer fabric is missing. A plain fabric is better if the garment has a pattern or is thin. A 2-inch square is usually adequate, unless damage is extensive.

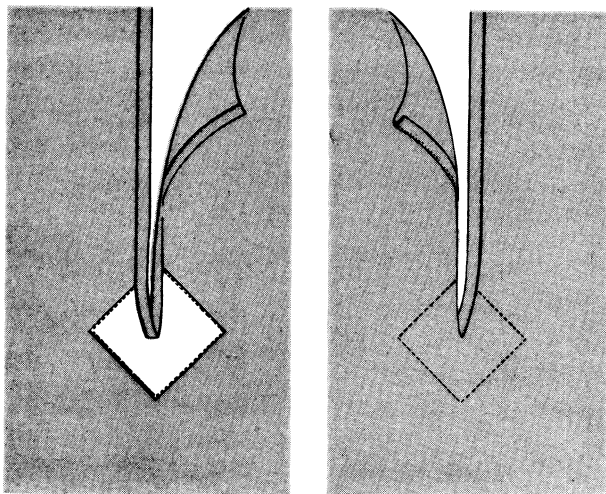
- Turn and crease the four sides of patch.

- Remove binding from placket point.

- Close the placket. On the inside of the garment, center this patch astride the end of the placket. Because the patch is set on biaswise, it will give and not tear.

- Machine or hand hem patch in place on its four sides.
- Slash patch to placket end and restitch binding in place. Figure 30, *A* shows finished patch on wrong side; and figure 30, *B*, patch on right side.

If this patch is used on a square or V-shape neckline, a section of the straddle patch will have to be removed for smooth fit.



A

B

Figure 30

Lapped Patch

Choose this patch if sturdiness is more important than appearance, if fabric is bulky, or if a spot of the material is missing and needs to be replaced. It is not recommended for a mend that must not show, but as a serviceable patch for work and play clothes.

Follow these steps:

- Trim away any rough edges.
- Place matched patch underneath hole. Let it extend under any weak or thin area that surrounds the damage.
- With slightly darker thread, stitch back and forth by

machine until the patch is securely installed (fig. 31). This mend shows less when stitching lines are of uneven length. If a fabric is twill weave or ribbed, follow these lines in stitching. This helps disguise the mend.

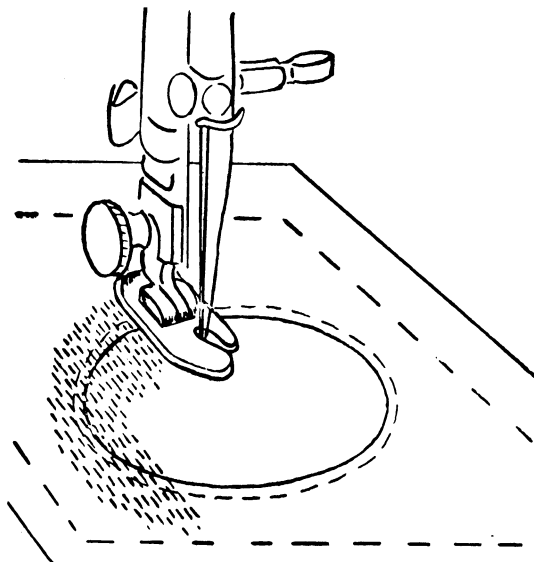


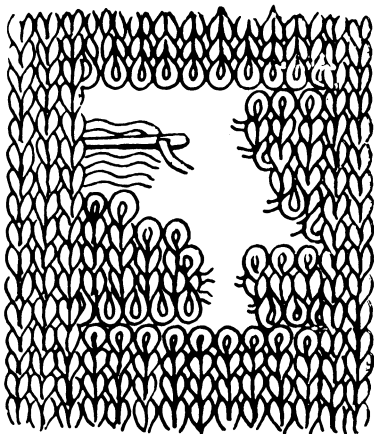
Figure 31

Knit Stitch Patch

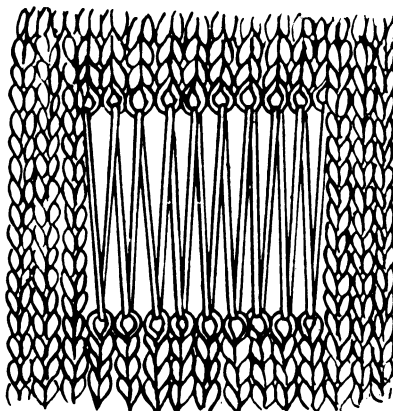
This patch is used on plain knit garments to duplicate the original stitch. It is almost invisible and stretches in use. Sweaters are often mended with this patch.

Follow these directions in making a knit stitch patch:

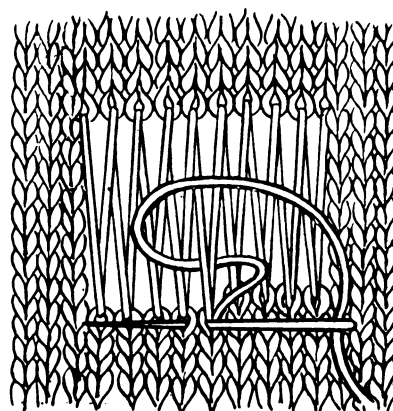
- Make two horizontal cuts—one above the hole and one below.
- Ravel knit to ends of these cuts. A thread may be run through the loops as a guard against further raveling.
- With a needle, thread loose ends of yarns at sides of patch and pull ends back into underside of knit (fig. 32, *A*).
- Follow drawings 32, *B* and 32, *C* to make patch.



A



B



C

Figure 32

Blanket Stitch Patch

Use the blanket stitch patch for small mends on knit garments in places where the fabric does not need to stretch in use. The blanket stitch patch is easier to do than the knit stitch patch, but is more noticeable. This is a good patch for a hole in the heel of a sock.

Here is the way to make a blanket stitch patch:

- Follow the first three directions under knit stitch patch.
- Pull crosswise yarn across opening and work back over it with loose blanket stitches (p. 3), taking one stitch in each loop of the knit.
- Continue back and forth across the hole with blanket stitches, as pictured (fig. 33), until the opening is filled.
- When making the last row, catch each stitch through a loop at the bottom of the hole.

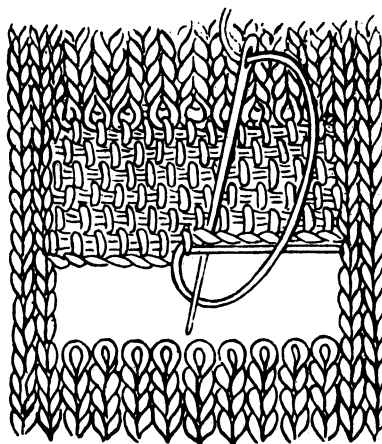


Figure 33

DARNS AND DARNING

Tips on Darning

- Study the weave of the original fabric, and reproduce it in your darn as closely as possible.
- Work under the best light available.
- Use a fine needle and short thread. Long thread pulled back and forth across a torn place, or a worn hole, may pull and stretch damaged area out of shape.
- Darn on the right side of material, and blend the darn inconspicuously into fabric around hole.
- Work for flatness. If yarns are pulled tight, the finished darn puckers and looks drawn. Too loose stitching gives a darn a puffy look.
- Draw mending yarn or thread through yarns in the cloth itself, rather than in and out of the material, whenever you can. Take small stitches. Be especially careful not to draw the thread taut when you make a turn. Run the stitching unevenly into the cloth surrounding darn. This prevents a hard and heavy line around darn.
- Pull ends of darning yarns to underside of garment and cut off, but not too closely. Work in such a way that all raw edges of a hole or tear are on the underside.
- Steam press finished darn from wrong side. If material is wool or napped, brush darn to lift nap.

Plain Hand Darn

A plain weave hand darn is the best way to mend small moth-eaten or burned holes, and most other small holes. Large holes are better repaired with a patch.

Here are guides in making a plain hand darn:

- Snip away ragged edges of holes.
- Choose darning yarn or thread that matches the fabric closely in color, weight, and luster. Too heavy yarn strains the surrounding fabric and makes the darn noticeable. Mercerized cotton thread usually blends into fabric around a hole better than yarns from original fabric.
- Work back and forth, lengthwise, across the hole and far enough into the fabric to strengthen the thin or worn area that may surround a hole. If there is no thin area and stitches can be run into the underside of a woven fabric—not pulled through to the outside—the darn will be less noticeable.
- Weave crosswise, over and under the lengthwise yarns, and again into the surrounding fabric (fig. 34).

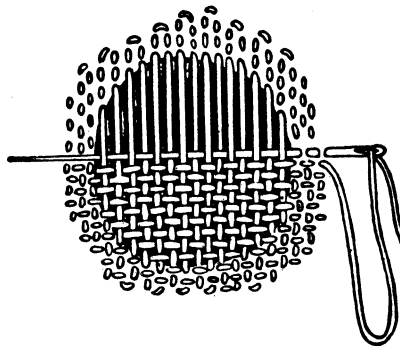


Figure 34

Pattern Darn

Use the pattern darn to repair small holes in suitings or dress fabrics with distinct weaves.

Before making a pattern darn, study the weave carefully to see how lengthwise and crosswise yarns are interwoven. A magnifying glass will be helpful at this point. As you darn, reproduce this weave as closely as possible, using matched thread or yarns to best suit your fabric (fig. 35).

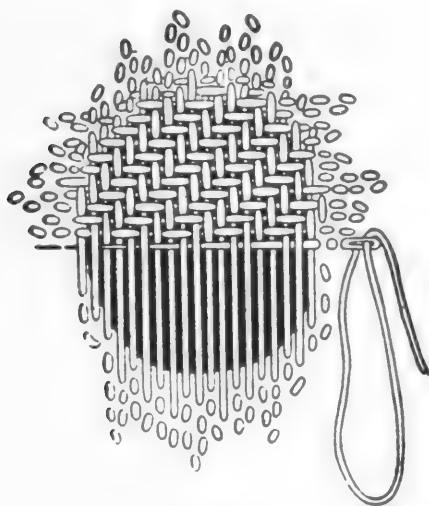


Figure 35

Machine Darn

A machine darn is a quick way to repair straight, three-corner, or jagged tears, diagonal cuts, and similar damage. Follow this procedure for a neat machine darn:

- Place damaged spot right side up over an ironing board, sleeveboard, or other flat surface. Straighten and trim any tangled and frayed yarns.
- Cut an underlay from lightweight press-on interfacing fabric. Make underlay no larger than necessary to reinforce and hold the cut or torn area in place.
- Slip reinforcing fabric underneath damaged area—adhesive side up. Hold it in place with pins. With yarns combed precisely in place, cover mend with a thin cloth to protect fabric, then press. If necessary, it may be pressed again from the inside.
- Use thread, either silk or fine cotton—whichever best matches the luster of your fabric—in a slightly darker shade than fabric. Machine or handstitch back and forth over the damage, usually with the grain of the fabric.
- Trim away any excess of the reinforcing fabric, unless the surrounding area needs it for strength.
- Then tack reinforcement invisibly to the back of the fabric with padding stitches (p. 3).
- If damage is a three-corner tear, a snag, or badly frayed, machine stitch both crosswise and lengthwise.

TWENTY-FIVE MENDS FOR COMMON CLOTHING DAMAGE

Specific mends for the everyday tears, rips, snags, and worn holes likely to occur in family clothing make up the remainder of this publication. Much of the damage looks familiar because it is the very kind of repair problem found in your mending pile. Sometimes the damage is slight, sometimes it is serious.

The ways in which these garments are mended show how basic stitches, patches, and darns can be adapted to meet a particular need. As you know, most good mends are a blend of stitches and techniques. Each of the 25 mends solves a typical mending problem. No two kinds of damage are exactly alike. Differences in fabric, type of clothes damaged, and location and extent of the damage call for different methods.

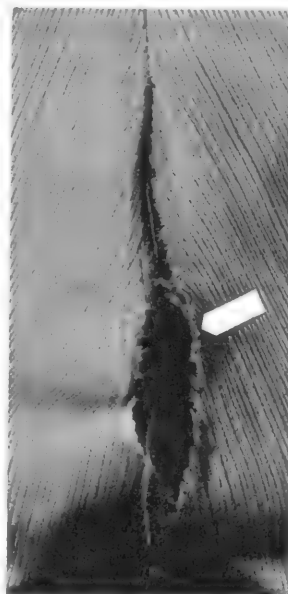
Although you may have to create mends to suit some of your damage problems, you'll find many of the mending ideas shown here useful and practical.

Mends in Wash Pants and Slacks

Damage.—Raveled machine stitching in wash pants (fig. 36, A).

Mend.—Pin seam together and restitch full length of the seam with short machine stitching and strong thread. To make seam extra strong, press edges of seam together, stitch a second time close to the edge, and finish with machine

zigzag stitch (fig. 36, B). Hand overcasting (p. 3) can be used as an edge finish instead of the zigzag stitch.



A

PN1254



B

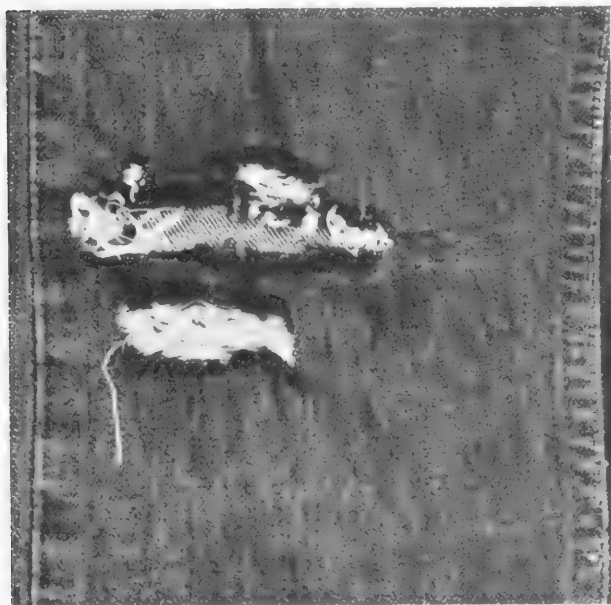
PN1255

Figure 36

Damage.—Large knee hole in dungarees (fig. 37, *A*).

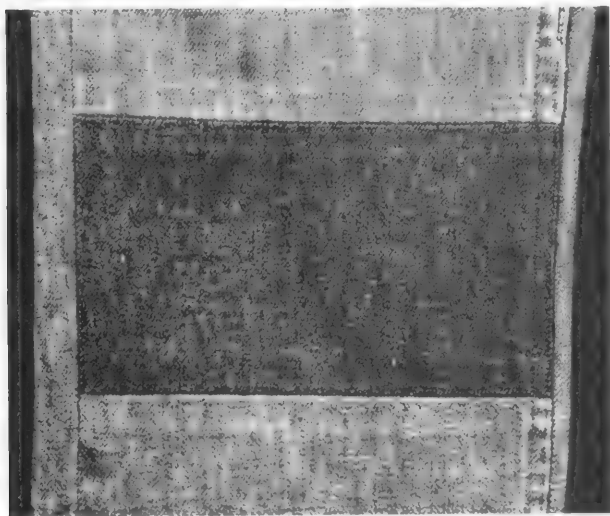
Mend.—Worn section is replaced with a strip salvaged from a good portion of discarded dungarees. To do this, mark part to be removed with chalklines. Open inseam and outseam one-half inch above the top chalkline and one-half inch below the lower line. Cut out the damaged portion along the chalklines. In its place, set in a new section 2 inches longer than the opening (this provides for two $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seams and for the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch increase above and the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch increase below the chalklines). Stitch and press seams open. Then restitch inseam and outseam. See figure 37, *B*.

This makes a neat, strong patch that is easier to make and less noticeable than the usual patch with four sides. You can use the same repair on better trousers, in which case you disguise the seam with the rantering stitch (p. 4).



A

PN1256



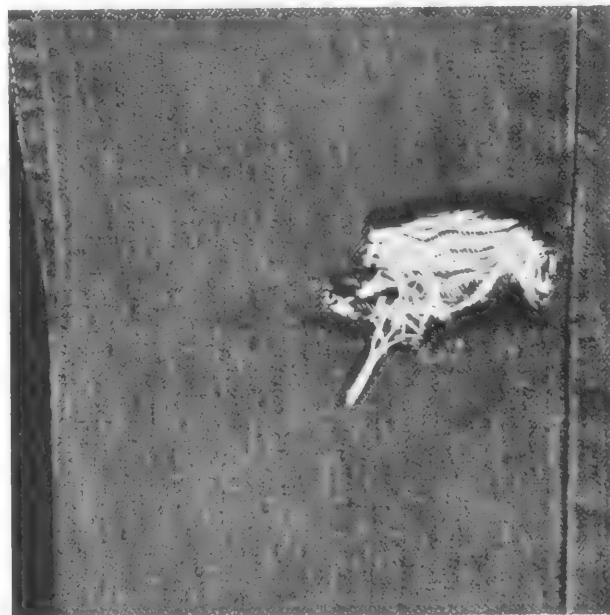
PN1257

Figure 37

Damage.—Small hole in knee of dungarees (38, *A*).

Mend.—This technique can be used for small holes if leg length permits. First draw two chalklines, one above and one below the damaged area. Open leg seams from one-half inch above the topline to the lower edge of the leg. Remove damaged area by cutting along chalklines, then seam cut edges together. Press seam open. Restitch leg seams. Level and rehem lower edge of leg. Figure 38, *B* shows completed mend.

Seamed-out damage is less noticeable than a patch or inset. This repair may also be used on better trousers, and the seamline disguised by rantering (p. 4).



A

PN1258



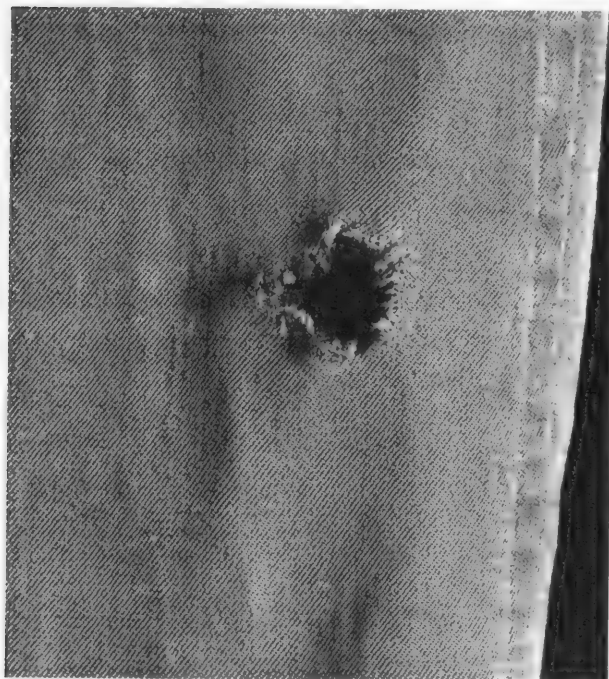
B

PN1259

Figure 38

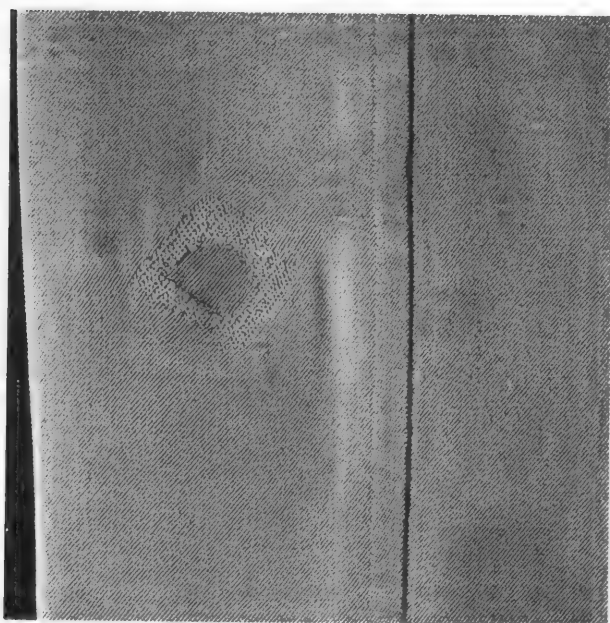
Damage.—Round hole in wool school slacks (fig. 39, *A*).

Mend.—Cut a patch piece from pocket facing and baste it under the hole. The hole left in pocket facing can be replaced with sturdy cotton fabric. With mercerized thread, slightly darker than fabric, machine stitch patch following the diagonal lines of the twill weave. This helps disguise patch and make a neat repair (fig. 39, *B*).



A

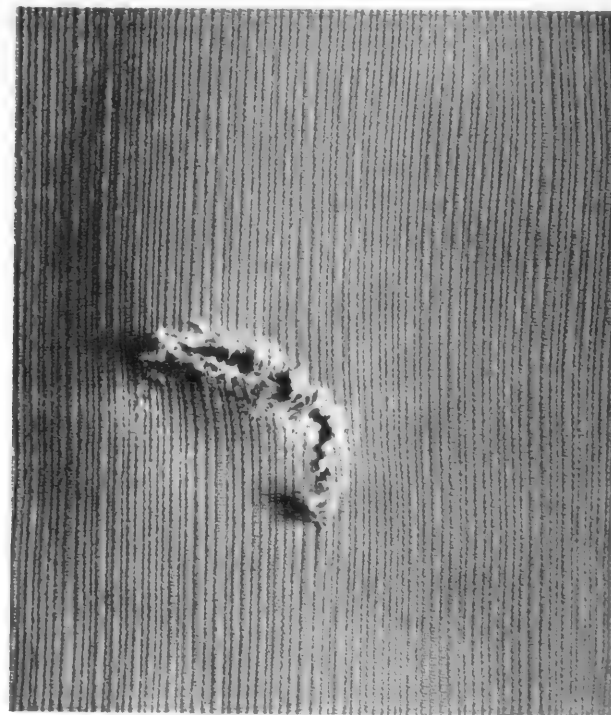
PN1260



B

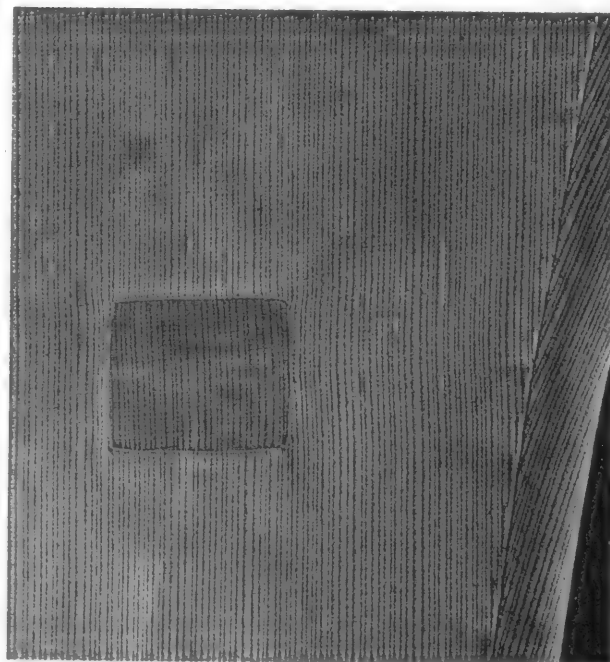
PN1261

Figure 39



A

PN1262



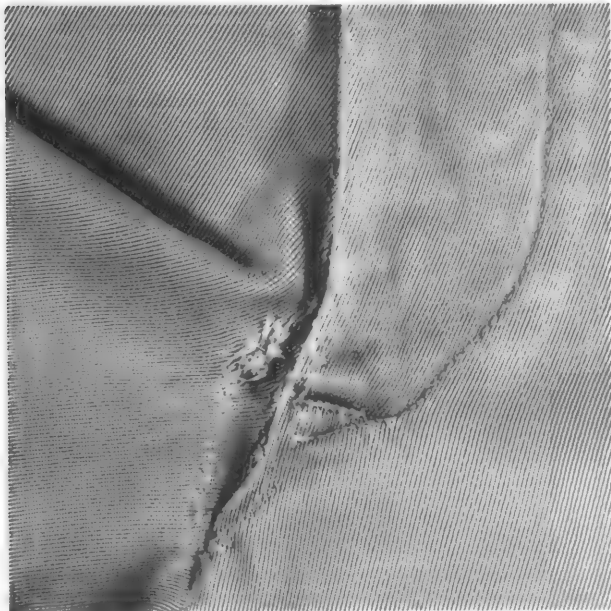
B

PN1263

Figure 40

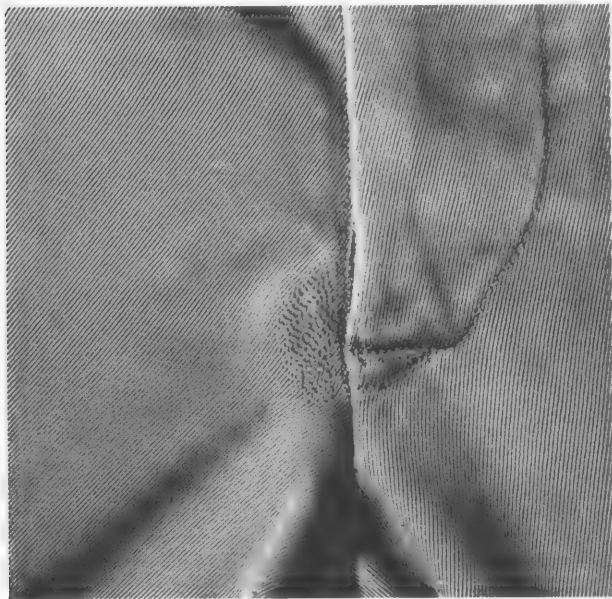
Damage.—Tear in fly of work slacks (fig. 41, *A*). Because of a manufacturer's error the fly in these slacks was lapped past the underlay. This caused strain and a tear followed.

Mend.—Take out stitches in seam and bar just far enough to repair the hole and reset the placket end as it should have been in the first place. Apply press-on interfacing fabric to the underside of the hole. Machine darn over the tear following the twill to make it look more like the original fabric. Then reseam the front rise in its proper position and bar tack the end of the fly over the underlay as pictured (fig. 41, *B*).



A

PN1264



B

PN1265

Figure 41

Damage.—Waistline adjusters on sport shorts cut and torn by metal prongs (fig. 42, *A*).

Mend.—Remove side tabs. From the good portions of the tabs cut two bands—one for each side of shorts. Finish the ends of bands as shown in figure 42, *B*. Stitch one end of band to waistband as pictured. In the other end and on the waistband beneath, install snap fasteners (pound-in type), following manufacturer's directions. Snap fasteners permit waistline adjustment.



A

PN1266



B

PN1267

Figure 42

Mends in Shirts

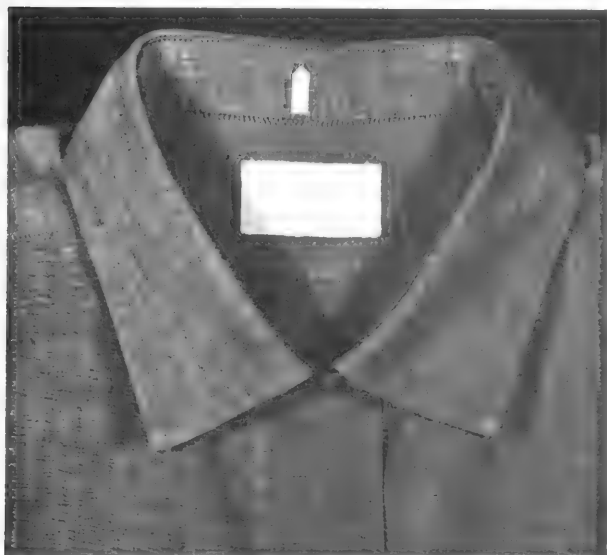
Damage.—Worn collar and band on tailored shirt (fig. 43, *A*).

Mend.—Rip collar from the neckband. Machine darn worn top collar area to interfacing. The worn line at top of neckband is hidden from view by simply cutting down the height of the band. Reverse the collar to the neck side of the band (the darned portion of the collar is concealed on the underside). Press collar with the seam down inside the band. Join the inside neckband to the collar with top stitching. Finished mend is shown in figure 43, *B*.



A

PN1268



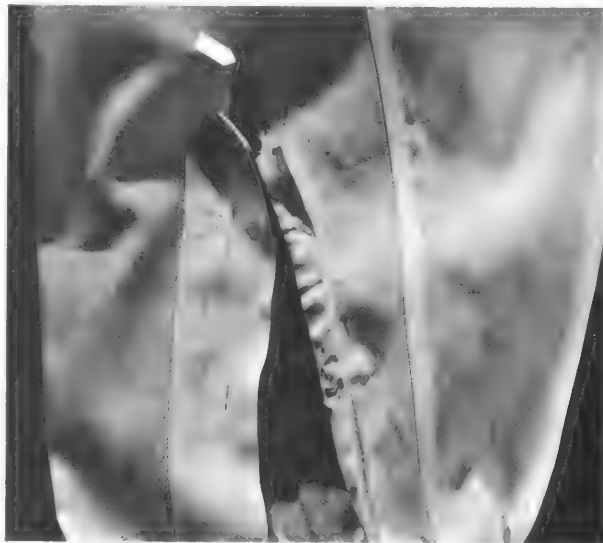
B

PN1269

Figure 43

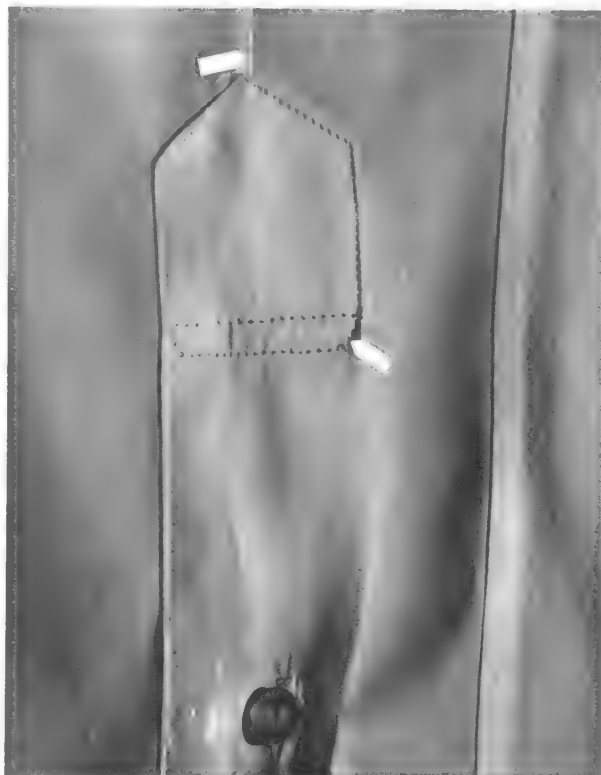
Damage.—Torn placket in shirt sleeve (fig. 44, *A*). When a tailored placket rips open, a tear like the one shown here usually results.

Mend.—Repair the tear as a dart. Then button placket to help hold ends in position for restitching. Note that the ends of the bar are then stitched in slanting, rather than straight, lines. This distributes the strain of use and guards against another accidental tear. Figure 44, *B* shows the completed mend.



A

PN1270



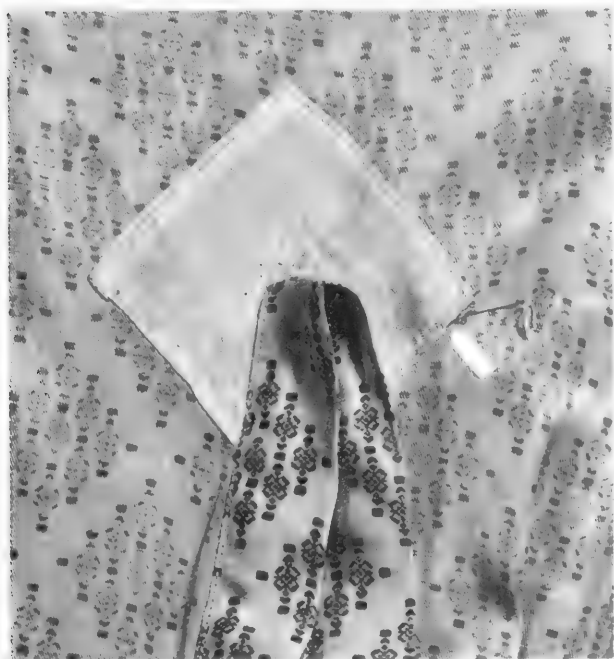
B

PN1271

Figure 44

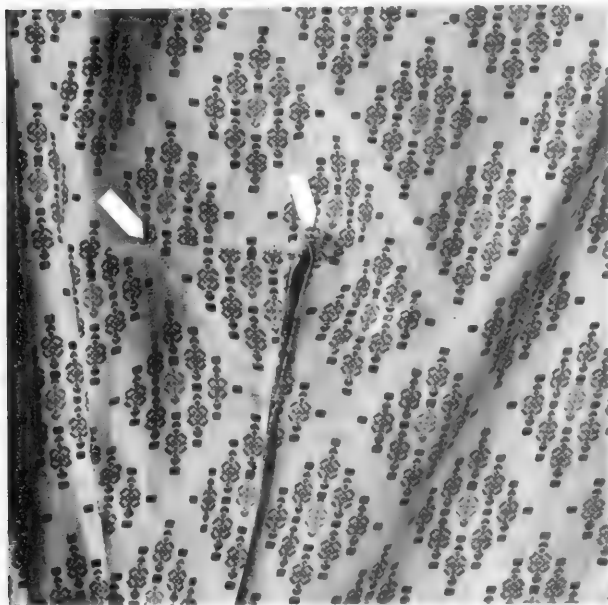
Damage.—Tear at turn of continuous placket in shirt sleeve. Plackets of this type put strain on the garment and result in tears.

Mend.—Seam the crosswise tear as a dart. Apply a straddle patch (p. 11) astride the turn of placket on underside. Figure 45, *A* shows how mend looks on underside of sleeve. On the right side, machine darn the small hole in the shirt to the patch. Figure 45, *B* shows the completed mend on the outside of sleeve.



PN1272

A



PN1273

B

Figure 45

Mends in Knitwear

Damage.—Ripped seams in child's knit shirt (fig. 46, *A*).

Mend.—Trim seams. Restitch seams with a short machine stitching about one-eighth inch from the edge, then stitch again along the edge. Stretch the material slightly as you stitch so the thread will not snap in use. In finishing the seam edge, use a zigzag stitch if your machine has one, or overcast by hand.

Open the placket end, remove bulk, reinforce with tape on the underside, and restitch on top. See figure 46, *B*.



PN1277

A



PN1278

B

Figure 46

Damage.—Tears and rips in knit collar and cuffs (fig. 47, *A*).

Mend.—Rip open the inside neck edge of knit collar and top of cuffs. Fold edge inside out on collar and cuffs and seam out the worn edges. To hold shape of these stretchy edges, set in narrow elastic with the seam (fig. 47, *B*). Stretch material slightly as you stitch to keep stitching from breaking in use. Then turn collar and cuffs right side out, pluck out seamed edges and ease edges underneath slightly. Press. Finally hand hem bands into place with close stitches. Figure 47, *C* shows the collar after mend has restored it.



A

PN1274



B

PN1275



C

PN1276

Figure 47

Mends in Dresses

Damage.—Waistline tear in back of girl's dress (fig. 48, A). Too short an opening results in strain and tear at waistline seam.

Mend.—Rip skirt and bodice apart. Remove elastic at waistline. Repair tear as a dart. To relieve strain on the too short opening, make a continuous placket that extends 4 inches into the skirt.

The material for finishing the extension is taken from the inside facing of the back bodice opening. Cut this piece 8 inches long. Finish extension with a continuous placket. Restitch waistline seam. Include new narrow elastic (if old elastic is not usable) as you restitch the waistline seam. Stretch the elastic a little as you stitch. Finally handstitch ends of placket to bodice back facing securely. Figure 48, B shows back of dress after repair.



A

PN1279



B

PN1280

Figure 48

Damage.—Deep fraying and pulled-out seams on a dress (fig. 49, A).

Mend.—Carefully open damaged seams and press them flat. With thin bias fabric as a backing, machine darn over the deeply frayed edges. Finish edges of the seam with a zigzag stitch, or overcast by hand. Then restitch all seams with fine stitching. Wherever the fit of the dress permits, make seams slightly deeper than they were originally. Resew zipper tape closely to the neck facing. See figure 49, B.



A

PN1281



B

PN1282

Figure 49

Damage.—Pulled-out cuffs on blouse sleeve (fig. 50, A). Here again damage was caused by deep fraying of the material.

Mend.—Remove the damaged cuff and trim off any tangled yarns. Reseam the cuff to the sleeve edge—with the right side of cuff next to the inside of the sleeve. Press the seam up and machine stitch again about one-fourth inch above the seamline (fig. 50, B). As further protection, you can stitch the top edge of the cuff to the sleeve about one-fourth inch above the turnup or one-fourth inch from its top edge.



PN1283

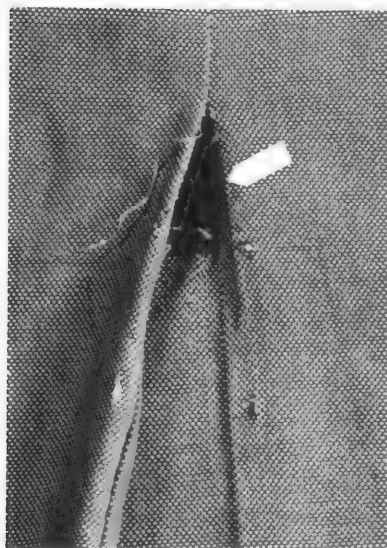
A



PN1284

B

Figure 50



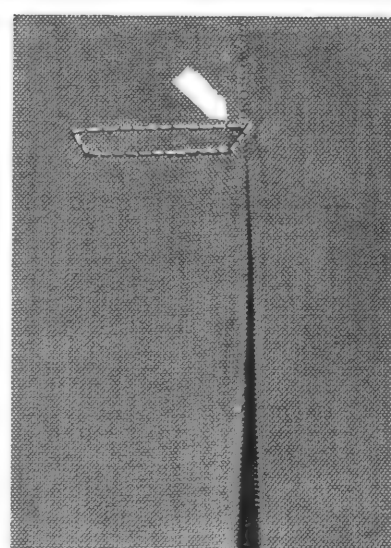
PN1285

A



PN1286

B



PN1287

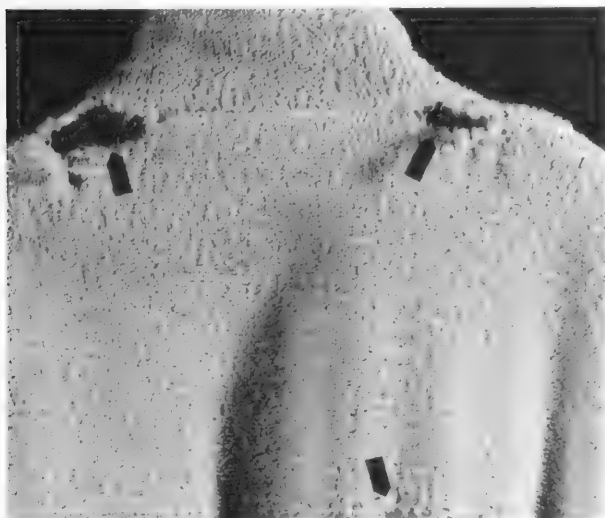
C

Figure 51

Mends in a Robe

Damage.—Holes and worn place in a terry robe (fig. 52, *A*). Terry cloth is a thick pile fabric and mends should try to reproduce appearance of pile.

Mend.—To get material to patch holes, take out wide facings from three-quarter sleeves, and hem sleeves. Set off each worn area with four pins to form a rectangle. Lift the loops within the rectangle with a tapestry needle, pulling gently until yarns are flat within the foundation fabric. Clip off yarns. Cut a terry patch to fit the rectangle. Baste patch to foundation fabric, and stitch around edges with zigzag or straight machine stitching. Then stitch the patch crosswise and lengthwise about three times. As you do this, push loops apart to avoid flattening fabric. Almost invisible mends result (fig. 52, *B*).



A

PN1288



B

PN1289

Figure 52

Mends in Underwear

Damage.—Underarm holes in a T-shirt (fig. 53, *A*).

Mend.—Lace small holes together with fine hand stitches. Slip shirt over an ironing board and press underarm areas. Cut shields to fit damaged area from good portion of a discarded T-shirt, and baste in position. Baste thin white paper to underside of shirt beneath shields. The paper helps to prevent puckering of knit material when it is machine stitched. Then stitch shields in place with machine zigzag stitch, which stretches in use. After stitching, rip off paper. Figure 53, *B* shows completed mend.



A

PN1290



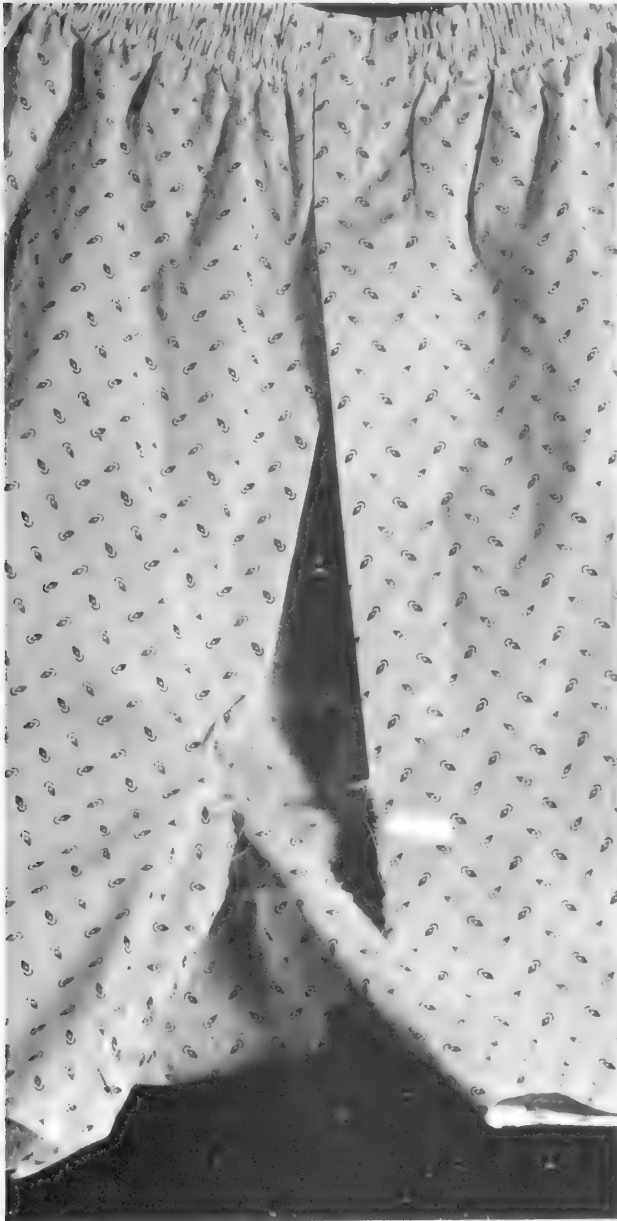
B

PN1291

Figure 53

Damage.—Tear in fly placket of men's shorts (fig. 54, *A*).

Mend.—To properly repair this very common damage, pull the two edges of tear together over a piece of light-weight press-on interfacing, and darn by machine. Reseam crotch. Baste placket end in place. To reinforce against further damage, stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch twilled cotton tape back of the crotch seam and across end of fly placket. See figure 54, *B*. Note that strain is diverted from end of placket by stitching that slopes up slightly. Figure 54, *C* shows how the completed mend looks on the right side.



A

PN1292



B

PN1293



C

PN1294

Figure 54

Damage.—Tears in crotch and feet of child's sleepers (fig. 55, *A*). As a child grows, sleepers with feet are often strained and are likely to break in toes and crotch.

Mend.—To repair, cut off the feet of sleepers and hem the legs. Unworn material from the soles of the feet may be salvaged to repair the crotch. Pull the holes in the crotch together with small stitches through loops at edges of holes. Baste mending pieces beneath this area. Finish mend by zigzag or hand stitching over and around all

edges to keep them flat and secure. Mended garment (fig. 55, *B*) will give considerable additional wear.

Damage.—Worn webbing on a cotton half-slip (fig. 56, *A*).

Mend.—Remove webbing. Trim any fraying from top of the slip. Pull torn place together over a narrow strip of thin press-on interfacing, and press. Machine darn across worn portion. New $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch waistline webbing



A

PN1295

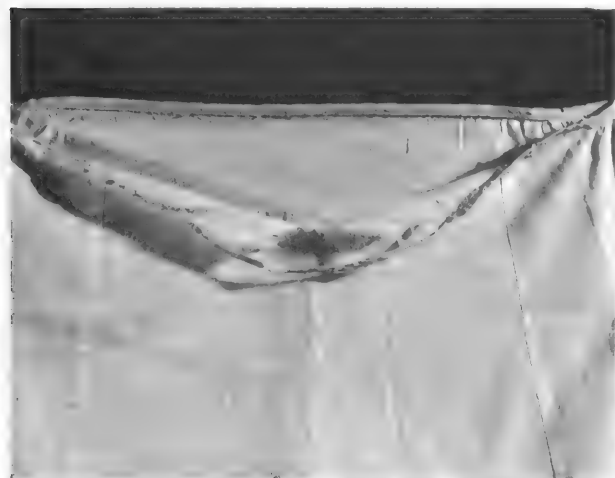


B

PN1296

Figure 55

(cut one-half inch longer than the waist measure) is then joined together by hand to form a circle. Make sure that the cut ends of webbing are folded in securely to prevent elastic in the webbing from slipping and losing its elasticity. Next divide both webbing and slip top into fourths; pin together at these points. Now apply the top edge of the webbing about one-fourth inch down into the slip top. Stitch by machine, stretching the elastic slightly to fit the slip top. Then turn webbing over to the right side of the slip, pin into place at the four points, and stitch along the other edge of the webbing, again stretching the elastic to fit slip top. Mended slip, with new webbing at top, is shown in figure 56, *B*.



A

PN1297



B

PN1298

Figure 56

Damage.—Loss of elasticity in webbing in tricot half-slip (fig. 57, *A*).

Mend.—Remove old webbing. Make a narrow casing at top of half-slip, leaving an opening through which new elastic is then drawn. This may shorten slip slightly. Turn in ends of elastic and seam together securely, then release elastic into casing. Take a few small hand stitches through elastic and casing at center back and front. This keeps elastic from rolling as slip is put on and taken off. Finally, close opening in casing with a few back stitches. Figure 57, *B* shows repaired half-slip.

A number of other women's and children's undergarments can be mended in the same way.



A

PN1299



B

PN1300

Figure 57

Damage.—Pulled-out and frayed seam in slip (fig. 58, *A*).

Mend.—Reseam completely. Finish edges of the seam

with a machine zigzag stitch. Then press seam to one side and top stitch on the right side about one-eighth inch from the seamline. Finished mend is shown in figure 58, *B*.



A

PN1301



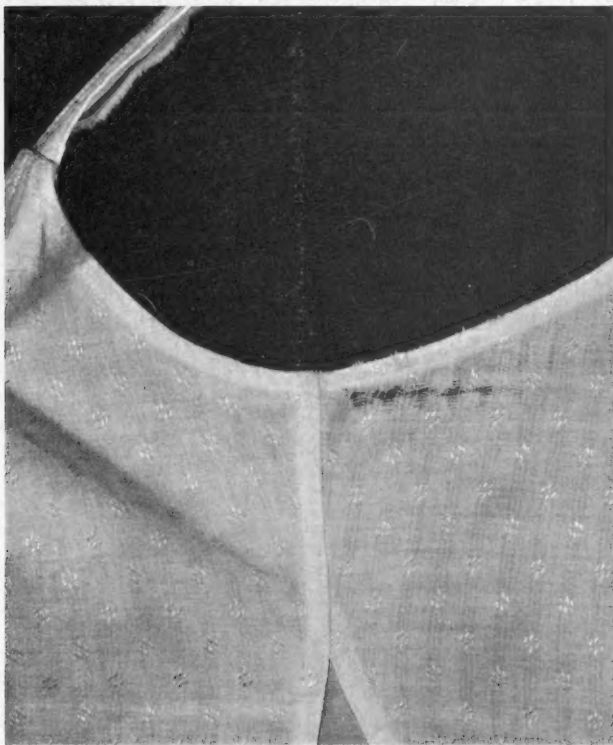
B

PN1302

Figure 58

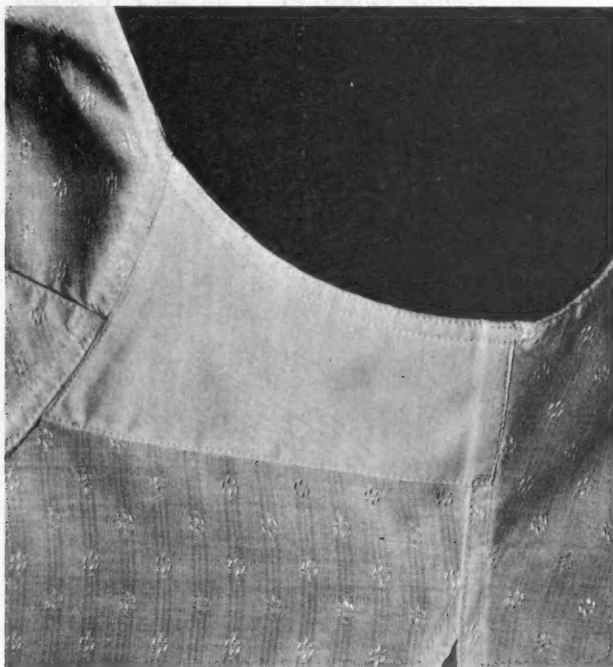
Damage.—Thin area in brassiere (fig. 59, *A*).

Mend.—A sturdy cotton patch can be easily and quickly applied over the thin or worn area to add wear to this garment. See figure 59, *B*.



A

PN1303



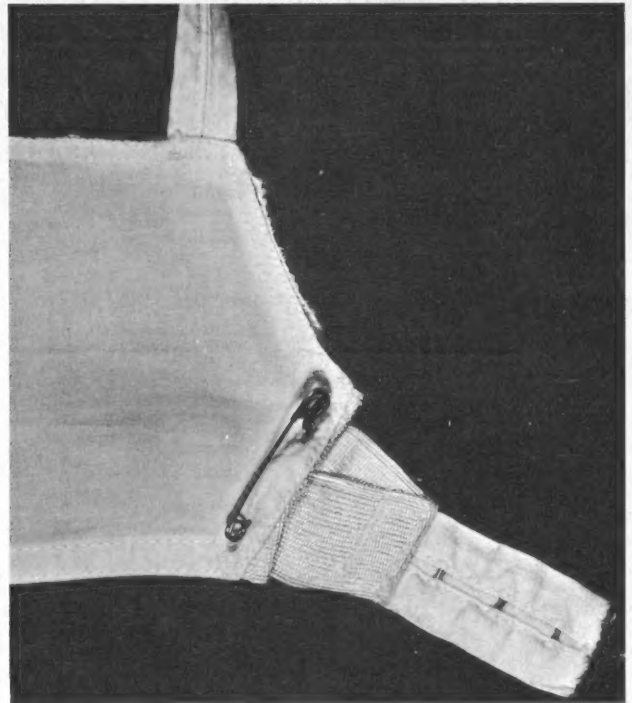
B

PN1304

Figure 59

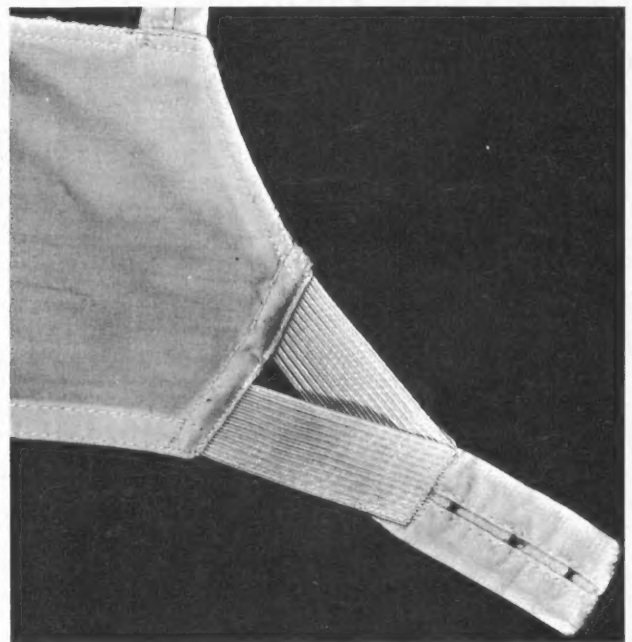
Damage.—Worn webbing in brassieres (fig. 60, *A*, and 61, *A*).

Mends.—For the brassiere in figure 60, *A*, get two pieces of webbing, each 1 inch wide and 4 inches long. Fold webbing in half and spread cut ends to fit the brassiere. Rip out worn webbing. Insert the new webbing and stitch as shown in figure 60, *B*.



A

PN1305

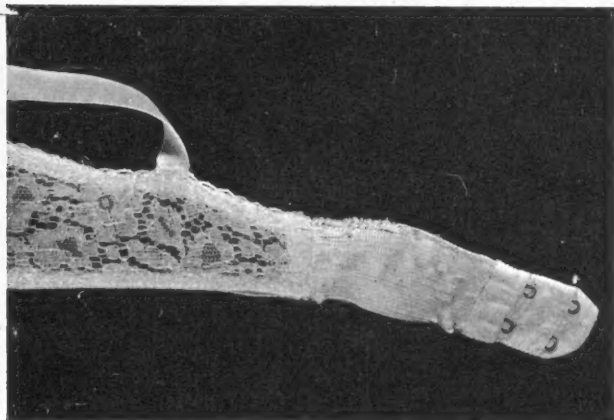


B

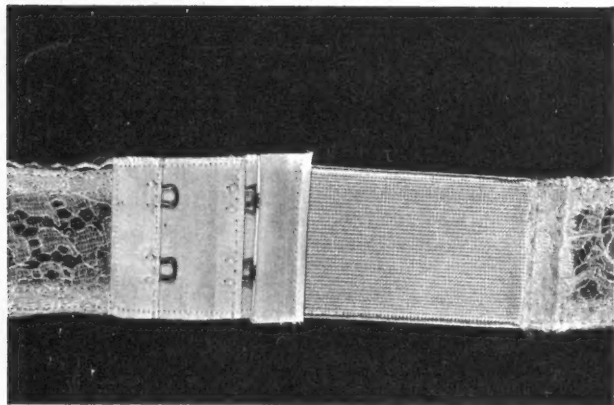
PN1306

Figure 60

To mend the damage in figure 61, *A*, a replacement section of webbing is necessary. You can get it in notion departments. Rip out the worn section, and set in the new section exactly where the old one was. Stitch securely in place by machine (fig. 61, *B*).



A PN1307

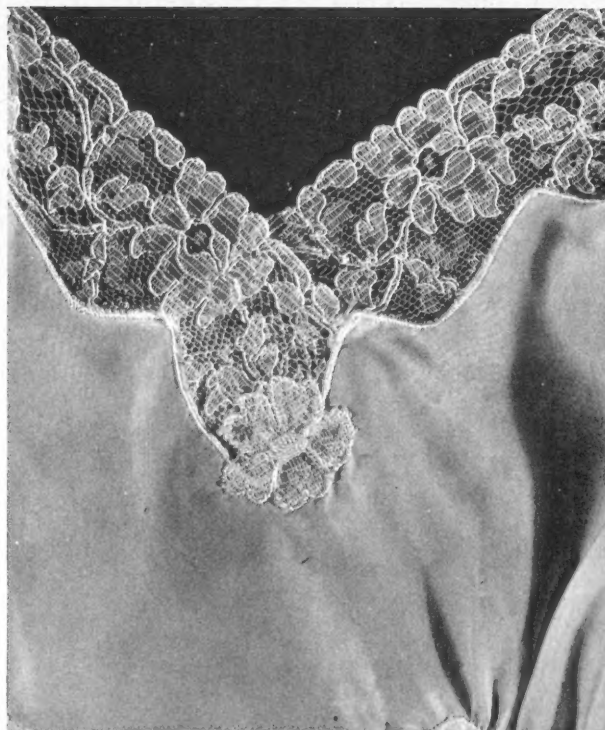


B PN1308

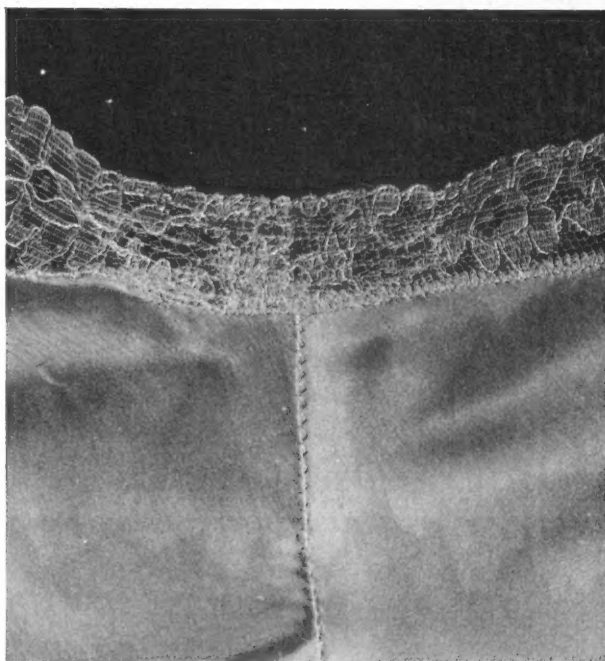
Figure 61

Damage.—Breaks in lace on slip include (1) lace trim worn at underarm and (2) lace and slip fabric pulled apart.

Mends.—(1) To repair, lay net fabric underneath worn lace. Machine stitch lace to net. The amount of stitching depends on the pattern of the lace and how much strengthening is needed. Figure 62, *A*, shows how neatly this method repairs damage. (2) To mend damage in which the lace and slip fabric have pulled apart, apply a small lace motif cut from a scrap of lace, using close overhand stitches (p. 4). This covers and reinforces the damaged spot. Figure 62, *B* shows completed mend.



A PN1309



B PN1310

Figure 62

MORE INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a number of publications on home sewing and home care of clothing. These include—

	<i>Order No.</i>
Fitting Coats and Suits.....	G 11
How To Tailor a Woman's Suit.....	G 20
Buying Your Home Sewing Machine.....	G 38
Removing Stains From Fabrics.....	G 62
How To Prevent and Remove Mildew . . . Home Methods.....	G 68
Sanitation in Home Laundering.....	G 97
Home Laundering . . . the Equipment and the Job.....	G 101
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